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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N

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SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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High lights of the week's summary include reports on Victory Gardens; farm labor plans for 1944; national milk-production program; post-war planning; and wartime adjustments in the home.

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CONNECTICUT
January 25, 1944

Food production goals for 1944.-Several counties have already held county-wide food production meetings, each attended by 50 to 100 agricultural and homemaking leaders. County meeting program will be repeated at series of township or district meetings. Local meetings will decide on best method of carrying program to individual.

As part of educational program on year's food production goals Extension is publishing handbook for local leaders. Included will be report presented by each commodity committee at State food production goals meeting in Hartford last October, specific recommendations by extension specialists to help farmers meet their goals, and recommendations for expanded food-preservation program.

Farm labor.-State farm labor supervisor has announced plans to import about 2,200 farm workers into State this year. Office of Labor of WFA will be requested to supply 2,000 Jamaicans. Remaining 200 will be girls, and possibly some boys from nearby States. Majority of imported workers will be needed for 7 months beginning April 15, but first importation is hoped for about April 1. More of imported workers probably will be used on small farms this year than in 1943.

Four camps are planned to house girls who will work on tobacco farms. Girls are expected to be recruited in Boston and will be under supervision of Extension. Five large camps to house about 1,100 Jamaicans are already available and will be operated by WFA. Others will live in camps owned and operated by farmers. Farm placement man will be located by Extension in each camp to be responsible for maintaining satisfactory relationship between farmers and workers, and to prepare required weekly reports.

Extension, in cooperation with vocational agricultural teachers of State department of education, will soon begin course of instruction to train at least 250 nonfarm boys and girls for dairy-farm work this summer. Training will be given

by vocational teachers at local centers throughout State. Trainees who qualify will have week of intensive instruction at University of Connecticut before going to farm. Boys and girls will live in farm home during summer. They must have parents' consent to enroll in course and to accept dairy-farm job, must be 14 years old and weigh minimum of 125 pounds at end of school year, and must undergo physical examination before going to farm.

Extension will recruit boys and girls for dairy-farm training course, place them on farms, and provide necessary supervision. Bureau of Vocational Education will provide training personnel, centers for instruction, and transportation for instruction and for field trips to farms as part of course. Course will begin in Middletown and New Haven early in February.

Victory Gardens.-Policies and plans for 1944 Victory Garden program will be formulated at State-wide meeting in Hartford February 24. Meeting, called by Connecticut War Council's garden committee, will be attended by representatives of groups such as town war councils, granges, service clubs, garden clubs, and by individuals interested in gardens.

New vegetables.-Two new vegetables of high quality that hold promise for both Victory gardeners and commercial growers are announced by department of vegetable gardening at University of Connecticut. They are tomato named Coventry and rutabaga named Storrs. Coventry, red tomato of medium size and mildly acid, is expected to fill need in Connecticut for early tomato of high quality that does not crack while ripening. Storrs rutabaga is fast-growing, nonfibrous variety intended to meet competition of rutabags imported into State from northern areas.

TEXAS

February 1, 1944

Labor.-Year-end survey indicates more persons worked on Texas farms in 1943 than ever before. Main loss in normal number of farm workers was due to diversion of able-bodied adults to defense industries and armed forces. Replacements consisted largely of older men, women, and youths. Unusually large proportion of these were inexperienced. In 1944 net reduction of 15,000 to 20,000 experienced agricultural workers is expected. Deficiency probably can be made up by equal number of persons recruited among town and city residents and prisoners of war. Analysis of industrial employment in State points to saturation of available manpower about July 1. Estimated loss in agricultural labor force will be to industry, armed forces, and out-of-State employers such as sugar beet producers.

Dairying.-State meeting, first step in fulfilling program outlined by four-State conference at Texarkana, was held at Fort Worth in January. Further details will be taken up at three district meetings. In addition to four-State conference, called by Federal Extension Service to determine methods and procedures for reaching 1944 milk-production goal, Texas extension dairy husbandmen have attended regional meetings held by East Texas Chamber of Commerce on post-war planning. Conferences called to revive some inactive dairy-herd-improvement associations also were attended. Shortage of qualified testers is main reason for inactivity, but tester for one organization was obtained as result of conferences.

Victory Gardens.--Million Victory Gardens in 1944 -- increase of 10 percent over 1943 -- is goal set for Texas. All educational agencies are working together on program. At State-wide meeting program was discussed, and jobs were delegated to all concerned. County extension agents are emphasizing planting of home orchards by recommending adapted varieties. Field demonstrations hinge largely upon pruning and spraying. More spraying machines are now in operation in Texas than ever before.

Cooperatives.--Extension specialist in organization and cooperative marketing has prepared publication, "Questions and Answers About Farmers' Cooperatives." It is intended as primer for county agents in working with beginners in cooperatives. He also has worked on two post-war planning committees on marketing and health in demobilization period. They will make suggestions and recommendations to National Post-war Planning Committee under direction of B. M. Baruch.

Rodent control.--Eradication of rats to control typhus fever has been pursued actively in war-plant areas along Gulf Coast and in interior. Outstanding was campaign at Garrison, Nacogdoches County, where more than 30 cases of typhus fever in population of less than 1,000 were treated in past 18 months. At rat-control campaign meeting, mayor reported that 10 out of 40 attending were suffering aftereffects of typhus fever. Every townsman took part in drive, which brought rodents under control.

Home demonstration work.--Following Secretary Wickard's recommendation in January Extension Service Review, board of Texas Home Demonstration Association is interesting itself in post-war planning. These women are especially concerned with effect of food on permanent peace, and sending of seed and breeding stock to war-ravished countries. Programs on subject are planned for 12 district meetings in April and May.

LaMarque Women's Home Demonstration Club of Galveston County has devoted each Tuesday to sewing for soldiers at Camp Wallace. Headquarters transports 8 to 10 women with 2 to 4 portable sewing machines from community to camp. In December commanding officer presented certificates of honor and appreciation to 8 members of club for having sewed 10 or more full days successively. In 1 month women reported working on 3,751 garments.

Wartime meals.--Practical demonstrations in preparing lunches for defense workers and school children have been given by extension food specialists to girls' 4-H and women's home demonstration clubs. Objective was to improve variety of workers' midday food and encourage making lunch plans part of general meal plans in homes. To discourage making lunches from left-overs they emphasized that foods from past or approaching meal can find welcome place in lunch menu. County home demonstration agents are making suggestions for nutritious fillings for sandwiches, which generally are backbone of box lunch. In sandwich demonstration, Tarrant County home demonstration agent used prune bread made by extension recipe with cottage or cream cheese filling. Prune bread is suggested as substitute for sweet in lunch and to give variety in breads.

Home management.--Conservation of home equipment, such as repairing and storing of utensils, patching of rubber goods, and correct sharpening of knives, was demonstrated by specialist in home improvement during January. In Lamar County, 153 members of women's home demonstration clubs and visitors attended, and in Floyd

County 4-H Club members took active part. Demonstrations also included floor finishes, home-made waxes and finishes, and maintenance of electric wiring and cords in home.

Better care of equipment, furnishings, buildings, and clothing has been encouraged by home-management specialist. Emphasis is placed upon value of assembling in kits all articles and supplies needed for upkeep. As consequence, 4,295 farm families in 35 counties saved time, energy, and money by assembling household repair, sewing, cleaning, and first-aid kits.

Livestock.-Campaign for eradication of grubs, ticks, and lice in cattle has been conducted systematically by extension beef-cattle specialists. Death losses from arsenical dips and fact that this mixture will not destroy short-nosed ox louse or cattle grubs have persuaded increasing numbers of ranchmen to adopt nontoxic rotenone-sulfur dip. Many county agents and 4-H Club boys have sought help of specialists in selecting club calves for fattening. Large number of club boys plan to graze calves on oats and Sudan pastures in late spring and early summer, and to finish them in feed lots in fall. Judging demonstrations given at county livestock shows will increase in next 3 months. Specialists believe judging service encourages 4-H Club boys to produce more and better-quality beef.

Wartime clothing program.-Basic factor in extension wartime clothing program is salvaging and reconditioning of sewing machines in farm homes. As result of 437 "clinics," 7,361 machines have been cleaned, adjusted, and repaired, for estimated saving of \$36,420. Extension clothing specialist believes convenience to women of being able to clean and adjust their machines outweighs money saving. Home demonstration agents report that in course of demonstrations foreign articles from buttons to screw drivers were found in heads of sewing machines. In Lamb County, 44 women cleaned machines and used attachments for first time as result of demonstrations. Archer County woman learned to make buttonholes and has averaged \$10 a month doing this work for others.

Negro activities.-Reports from 35 counties show that 190 method and result demonstrations have been conducted to teach negro farmers and 4-H Club boys Extension Service method of butchering, cutting, and curing pork and pork products. As result, 1,702 farm leaders have been trained to assist neighbors in conserving home-grown meat. Work involved 196 training meetings and 509 hogs. Fat was made into lard, meat fragments into sausage, and 190,961 pounds of pork were placed in cold storage. Negro farm families plan to follow this method to provide adequate pork and pork products for their food supply. In Mansfield community of Tarrant County negro farmers and 4-H Club boys used guard rails and adopted other safeguards for farrowing of 40 sows. Saving of 430 of the 440 pigs farrowed is attributed to these precautions. Effort has been made to keep large percentage of peanuts raised in community for feeding swine. This community has done some line and cross breeding, but all animals used are from purebred stock.

Under leadership of negro county agricultural agent, rural and urban negro families of Harris County are growing 1,450 winter vegetable gardens. Looking ahead, 650 farm and 2,500 urban families have prepared soil and selected seed for truck and home gardens this spring. Both classes of gardeners have increased size of their gardens over those of last year. Terraces were run on 31 farms in 8 counties during December. Negro agents in these counties also devoted time to training 4-H Club boys and farmers in setting up targets and levels, and running lines and building terraces. McLennan County negro farmers in six communities are running contour rows and rebuilding old terraces. N. D. Smith reports that on 35 acres of contoured land he gathered 300 pounds more cottonseed and 10 bushels more corn an acre than on uncontoured land of same quality in same area.